

Corfe Village Hall – Minutes June 19, 2023, 7pm
Charity 304526 Newton Lane, Corfe, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7AQ

Attendees: Chris Brown, Andy Butler, Nigel Furniss, Keith Gosling, Ruth Pickles, Emma Bowers
Apologies: Sue Ford, Rob Smith

1. Charity Application Status (Andy)

AB (Chair) confirmed the original lease has been obtained from JH; application can now be submitted for CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which is a better overall charity structure for the charity and serving trustees. The village hall will receive a new charity number. Estimated a few weeks.

2. Village Hall Extension / Planning Application (Nigel)

NF explained that Conditional Approval was granted on 12/6/23 for the full extension option (not that the full extension option would necessarily proceed). Notice has been displayed in a couple of prominent positions around the village, including village hall gates by QA field and the telegraph pole on Newton Lane. Notices will be displayed for 21 days (19th June – 9th July). Options for eco-friendly construction are to be considered. Public meeting(s) will be planned, date to be advised, likely towards end of July. Funding discussion will be needed, including what additional fund raising from organisations will be required.

3. Hall Maintenance (Nigel)

- NF confirmed that annual fire inspection was booked for 20/6/23. Confirmed that inspection was completed ok on 20/6/23. Fire Extinguisher in kitchen has been replaced (10 year life). Certificate will be emailed to Treasurer.
- Internal decoration program was discussed and consensus was to put any works on hold until clarity on extension plans were known.
- Solar Panels evaluation will be part of ongoing assessment by Grace Alexander and Neil Bailey as part of overall energy assessment of the hall. Potentially part of further discussion on 29/6 Community Action on Climate Change Workshop.
- Partitions for the hall were discussed and consensus was to put any works on hold until clarity on extension plans were known.

4. AV Proposal (Chris & Nigel)

A local AV company was invited to submit a proposal for audio equipment to upgrade user features for the hall. There is a legal requirement for public spaces to have Loop Hearing system. The proposal included a number of helpful references for funding options, references for past works with local halls, and additional feature functionality for the hall. The committee agreed that investing in AV equipment is necessary and important.

- Next steps will be to contact organisations for grant options (Chris)
- Contact other halls for references (Nigel) incl. Ruishton (Keith)
- Obtain multiple quotes (Nigel)
- Explore Wifi capability as Add-On (Andy)

5. Village Hall Bookings (Chris)

CB explained that May has been fairly quiet, excluding the regular bookings for all the Corfe Societies. Booking process working well. Several birthday bookings for June. CB will provide a summary of bookings for KG by end of June.

6. Marque – Duration of Use (All)

Discussion around how successful the marque has been and possibility to use for other village hall events. The marque is owned by the Parish Council and therefore further discussion would need to be discussed with the Parish Council including any potential costs that could potentially be charged if used in conjunction with village hall bookings.

7. Finances (Keith)

The following was agreed with effect from 1st October 2023:

- Local clubs / Corfe Societies £20/hr (typically for 2 hrs, with 30 minutes each side for setting up/tidying up). Revert back to £15/hr from 1st April for the 6 summer months.
- Parties and other bookings to be charged at £50/hr for the first 2 hours and £15/hr thereafter
- Corfe residents to be given a 20% discount.
- Bank Holidays will be double rate for non-regular bookings.
- Charity events (quizzes, coffee mornings, etc) to be charged a flat £10.
- Other village based events (wine tasting, fish & chip suppers, etc) would be asked to hold a raffle where proceeds go to the VH.
- No charge for village wide events like the coronation, or for Parish Council or Church meetings.

8. Events (All)

- Committee discussed the desire to review how to make the most use of our Hall. Some research on best practices on other village halls will be done in the coming months, EB to lead.
- Agreed to explore possibility for wider invites to some events. For example, the Gardening Club had a recent talk on Birds of Prey that potentially other villagers may have attended as a one-off paid event. EB to discuss with Gardening Club if wider invite is of interest.
- Committee discussed wider fundraising opportunities and tabled the discussion for future meetings.
- Agreed to explore social media engagement opportunities and advertising when events welcoming outside Corfe residents are held.
- A village wide Feedback Questionnaire has been developed. This will invite everyone to provide input on different event options for the hall to gauge level of interest/participation. Questionnaire will be posted to all Corfe & local residents during early part of July, with return end of July. Every completed questionnaire will go into a draw for 2 tickets for the 100 Club. EB will consolidate responses.(Andy & Emma)

9. 100 Club Draw

Congratulations go to:

£50 Sheila Dugdale

£25 Odeyne Lowell Smith

£25 Suzie Butler

10. **Any Other Business (AOB)** – nothing raised

11. **Date of Next Meeting** – to be agreed, estimated 7-8 weeks

12. **Meeting Closed**